To the Right Honourable the
Commons of England
IN
PARLIAMENT
ASSEMBLED.

The humble Petition of diſconſolate Fathers and Wives, on the behalf of their diſtreſſed Children and Husbands, which are now Slaves and Captives in Algiers.

GUILDHALL
LONDON

Moſt humbly ſheweth,

THat about *Auguſt* 1677, ſeveral of His Majeſties Subjects being bound for the *Straits*, and *Ports* there adjacent, and having His Majeſties Paſs for their ſafe Conduct, as alſo a Convoy attending ſome of them, were notwithſtanding taken by the *Algierines* and carried into *Algiers*, and as Captives expoſed to Sale in publick Markets for Slaves; and that the ſaid *Algierines* betwixt the ſaid Months of *Auguſt* and *December* laſt, have taken of His Majeſties Subjects in or about the *Straits*, about Six hundred Perſons, which ſaid number, in *December* laſt, was reduced to 250; moſt of them being then dead; through the barbarous Uſage they received from their Patrons, to whom they were then ſold.

That about *December* laſt, ſeveral Ships being bound for *Virginia*, were all taken by the ſaid *Algierines*, and the Perſons on Board carried into *Algiers* Captives, and there ſold for Slaves; ſo that there is at this inſtant of His Majeſties Subjects, Nine hundred and ſeventy one Perſons, who are Slaves there, and are over-laid with Horrid and Barbarous Cruelties; moſt of which ſaid Perſons are Your Petitioners Children and Husbands.

That Your Petitioners ſaid Children and Husbands, being made Slaves, as aforeſaid, and Your Petitioners not able to pay ſuch ſums of Money for their Ranſom, as their reſpective Patrons do demand; and for that Your Petitioners ſaid Children and Husbands, do refuſe to turn Moors, and forſake the Proteſtant Religion, they the ſaid Patrons do frequently Bugger the ſaid Captives, or moſt of them, and others beat upon the Britch ſo, that many are forced to have the Fleſh cut away to ſave their Lives; beat upon the Souls of their Feet with a Bulls Piſsle, ſome three, four, five hundred blows, run Irons into their Funda ments, rip open their Bellies with Knives, cut their Britches a-croſs, and waſhing them with Vinegar and Salt, and hot Oyl, draw them in Carts like Horſes, and impoſe immoderate weights on their Backs, till they become Broken-bellied; and uſe ſeveral other horrid, cruel, barbarous, and unnatural Cruelties toward the ſaid Captives, as Your Petitioners can make appear; all which tend to the utter Ruin of the ſaid Captives, and to Your Petitioners great Grief and Sorrows.

Your Petitioners therefore moſt humbly beſeech Your Honours to take into Your ſerious Conſideration the deplorable Condition of Your Petitioners ſaid Children and Husbands, and to order ſuch relief for the releaſing of them out of their intollerable Bondage and Slavery, as in Your Honours grave Judgment ſhall ſeem meet.

And Your Petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

B'side 12.12